

INT. FOUNDATION STATION - INDBUR'S OFFICE - SPACE

Silence in the room. Toran looks at her confused. And as if to illustrate, MERCENARIES flood the room, led by Vandagh.

TORAN

Bayta what are you talking about--

BAYTA

(patiently)

I'm the Mule, Toran.

She enters the room, looking down at the dead space pirate we thought was the Mule. She turns to Magnifico--

BAYTA (CONT'D)

Poor puppy. I really am sorry I left you with him for so long. It helped me, having everyone believe it was all the work of a big brute.

(beat)

I even made *him* think he was the Mule. Funny-tragic, I think. I poured so much of myself into him, my *memories*... but I knew what he was. I knew he was hurting you. I'm sorry.

MAGNIFICO

I was glad of the hurts, if they served you.

Toran's world is spinning. His eyes bounce between Magnifico and Bayta in utter disbelief.

TORAN

Bayta, stop. You're converted, or--

Finally, she loses her patience.

BAYTA

-- Torie *think*... Please. We're supposed to "happen to be in town" when there's fabulous parties, not invasions. I took us to Kalgan for a reason.

TORAN

For our *honeymoon*.

She just looks at him sadly, not sure what to say.

BAYTA

The pirate doesn't have powers.
Never did. I had to be close at
hand to turn Kalgan's navy. He was
good at the sloppy bits, but it was
too important to leave it all to
him. For some parts, I needed to
take the yoke myself, and steer.

TORAN

This can't be real.

BAYTA

Button, I want to sit down with you
and really tickle through this. And
we will, soon, because you deserve
that, but right now--

CRACK. Gaal HEAD BUTTS PRITCHER and breaks free from his
grasp. She grabs for Pritcher's holstered gun--

PRITCHER WRENCHES IT AWAY FROM HER GRIP AND SHOOTS HER.

Gaal is hit in the side. She looks at him, betrayed. It hurt
Pritcher to do it, but--

PRITCHER

Gaal. *Please.*

BAYTA

Thank you, Captain. I'll try to
make it so you don't have to hurt
her again.

Pritcher gets close to Gaal as she bleeds on the floor. He
tries to help her but she shoves him away.

PRITCHER

Please. Just listen to her. There
were always going to be hard choices.

GAAL

How long?

Has he been converted? Could she have missed something?

PRITCHER

Just for a few minutes. Feels
longer, though. Once you're in it.
(gesturing around them)
Look how *fast* she did this. We can
take Empire too, and then we'll have
done in one year what psychohistory
couldn't do in *hundreds*.

GAAL
(through the pain)
She's controlling you.

PRITCHER
No. I'm still thinking for myself. It's
just the feelings that've changed.
(then)
I've never known such love.

And that hurts Gaal more than the gut shot.

Bayta CROSSES CLOSER to Gaal, fascinated--

BAYTA
Look at you, ancient lovely. I have
lived with the thought of you for
half my life.
(honest question)
Why is that? Did you do that to me
somehow? You don't even look like
you *recognize* me.

GAAL
I have no fucking idea who you are.

BAYTA
Okay, I'll describe the dream,
then. 's'easy 'cause it's the same
one every time. I am on a
battlefield. And I am looking out
through his eyes...
(re: pirate's body)
...and there are these tight,
rubbery goggles squeezing my head
and my face is very hot from all
these little fires. And I don't
feel scared in the dream... just...
interested. In you. Because you're
there, but you're not there. You're
peeking out from the past, somehow.
And for a moment, I see where you
actually are. You're on a ship, and
I know, in the way you know things
in dreams... that the ship is
called the Beggar's Lament. How do
I *know* that? *What did you do to me?*

Gaal does nothing. Bayta composes herself.

BAYTA (CONT'D)
You don't have to say. I can see
for myself.
(then)
(MORE)

BAYTA (CONT'D)

I'm going to convert you now.
You'll feel some pressure.

Gaal is speared by psychic pain--

BAYTA (CONT'D)

When I touched Pritcher's mind on
Kalgan it was the first time I ever
felt like I might not be alone.

Gaal is barely holding on. The LOW END THROB has returned,
underscoring the scene...

BAYTA (CONT'D)

It's not just you and him, though,
is it?

She's digging for something in Gaal's head. Strikes gold.

BAYTA (CONT'D)

There they are. I see it. A whole
planet, just covered in people like
me, people like you, and you...
(sensing more...)
... you make them crunch numbers?
Do I have that right? Because that
sounds a lot like the Foundation I
just conquered. And I learned to
hate Foundation numbers when I was
very small.

Gaal's eyes are wide, her teeth gritted in pain--

BAYTA (CONT'D)

I grew up spitting at the name
Cleon, hating Empire. But it wasn't
Empire that tried to kill me, it
was the *Foundation*. Because they
took, and called it *counting* and
they killed and called it *utility*,
and they starved whole worlds and
called it *progress*.

Bayta gets down on her knees and puts her hands on Gaal's head.

BAYTA (CONT'D)

See?

A QUICK CUT:

40 **EXT. RESERVOIR - NIGHT (ROSSEM, FLASHBACK) (PREV SHOT)** 40

(RE-USE) The young Mule's parents, about to drown her. Only this time, the child in the flashback is not a boy. It's a little GIRL. The farmers on Rossem had a DAUGHTER.

BAYTA (V.O.)

One mouth too many for my parents.
They tried to drown me, I drowned
them first, and it was all very wet
and sad.

41 **INT. FOUNDATION STATION - INDBUR'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS (NT#1)**

Gaal and Bayta--

BAYTA

But then I heard a song...

She gestures and Magnifico nods, crossing to the visi-sonor
on the floor. Picking it up, while...

BAYTA (CONT'D)

The visi-sonor. It called to me, and
I followed the song to Magnifico, and
the pirate who owned him, and the
pirate's space ship. And I made the
crew of that space ship love me.
Everyone does, eventually.

And we CUT TO OTHERWORLDLY, PSYCHICALLY-AUGMENTED FLASHES,
distorted like a Vulcan mind-meld--

42 **EXT. MOUNTAIN PLATEAU - DAY (KALGAN, FLASHBACK) (PREV SHOT#2)**

(RE-USE) Images from Ep 301. The Mule emerging from the TREES.

BAYTA (V.O.)

That's why you lost. Foundation,
Empire, you have all these
strategies. You treat the galaxy
like some big game board and you
think in these big moves: of *ships*
and *capital* and *treaties*...

*But now we move into the trees... finding BAYTA, eyes closed
in concentration with Magnifico, playing the visi-sonor...*

Another CUT--

43 **INT. GEHENNA - NIGHT (KALGAN, FLASHBACK) (PREV SHOT)** 43

(RE-USE) Images from Ep 302... Pritcher staggering in psychic pain. Bayta looking at him with a look we now recognize as knowing surprise.

BAYTA (V.O.)
You can't beat me like that. That's
the old way.

Another CUT--

44 **INT. GEHENNA - BAR - NIGHT (KALGAN, FLASHBACK)** 44

(RE-USE) Images from Ep 302... Bayta and Magnifico. The moment when they first meet eyes. His flinch now readable as surprise-- at seeing his master. Then, later at the bar -- we notice the wording now as he asks for her alias:

MAGNIFICO
What name... what should I call
you, my lady?

BAYTA
Call me Bayta.

From that to...

45 **INT. LONG CITY - RANDU'S HOME - TWILIGHT (HAVEN, FLASHBACK)** 45

(RE-USE) Images from Ep 304... Bayta talking and smiling at Randu. Randu starting to nod, resistance melting.

BAYTA (V.O.)
You tried to maneuver me into
attacking Empire. Why would I do
that? I wanted whisper ships. I see
something I want, I take it. I walk
into the room, and everyone does
what I want, and it's over.

46 **INT. FOUNDATION STATION - INDBUR'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS (NT)** 46

Gaal's nose bleeding, Bayta still holding her fingers at Gaal's temples, Magnifico approaching with the visi-sonor--

BAYTA
For me, minds have dials, and I can
turn them to whichever spot I want
and nail them there forever.

47 INT. FOUNDATION STATION - INDBUR'S OFFICE - DAY (NT, FB) 47

(RE-USE) Images from Ep 305... Magnifico playing the visisonor for Indbur and others...

BAYTA (V.O.)
 (as if Gaal is just
 casually interested)
 Despair is easiest. Despair feeds
 itself. I killed the Foundation
 with it. They walked me right into
 their holiest of holies because
 they thought Magnifico was
 valuable, and I made them feel just
 terrible, until all they could
 muster was a white flag. Convert a
 few, the bad mood does the rest.

48 INT. FOUNDATION STATION - INDBUR'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS (NT) 48

BAYTA
 I prefer love. It's a little
 harder, but it sticks the best.
 And love is what you're going to
 feel. And then we can be done.
 (beat)
 Go on, Magnifico.

Magnifico brings the visisonor to bear... AND PLAYS A CHORD.

IT HITS LIKE A SONIC BOOM. HORRIBLE AND DISCORDANT when the camera
 is on Bayta -- STRONG AND ROUSING when the camera is on Gaal--

BAYTA REARS BACK WITH A SEARING PAIN -- looking over at the
 instrument and then up at Gaal to see--

GAAL'S ENTIRE DEMEANOR HAS CHANGED. She's in control now.

GAAL GLANCES AT EBLING. KNOWING EYE CONTACT. Next to Ebling,
 Toran is realizing:

This was their plan for Magnifico all along.

THEY BOTH RUSH TOWARD GAAL, AS--

GAAL
 (recovering)
 Sorry, we *tampered*. That thing only
 plays my song. Now get the fuck out
 of me.

Gaal lines her fingertips up with her prayer-stone scars and
DIGS into her face, *CLAWING...*

And Bayta is hit by a wave of pain-- a huge, psychic blast. She staggers back, GASPING FOR AIR--

IN THE SAME MOMENT, PRITCHER REACHES FOR HIS WEAPON...

Gaal lunges for the Mule's discarded blaster, FIRES -- !

TORAN
WAIT -- !

Next to her, Toran reacts instinctively -- PROTECTING BAYTA, SHOVING GAAL TO ONE SIDE. AS A RESULT...

GAAL'S SHOT GOES WIDE, missing Bayta by a centimeter.

Bayta's mercenaries start shooting. Ebling and Toran have to take cover. And Gaal fucking RUNS.

Out of the office, and--